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Remarks

ER 89-1199

Executive Secretary
29 Mar '89

Date

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16 D/Ex Staff

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STAT

The Geosat Committee, Inc. March 24, 1989



Dr. Mark F. Albrecht
Executive Director
National Space Council
Old Executive Office Bldg., 4th Floor
17th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dr. Albrecht,

First, let me congratulate you on your appointment as Executive Director of the new National Space Council. The Geosat Committee has testified in Congress on behalf of the reestablishment of a National Space Council as a step towards righting the seemingly floundering U.S. Space Program. Vice President Quayle and you have a heavy responsibility before you due to the national visibility of the National Space Council. You also have a grand opportunity to develop national focus on, and public support of, U.S. programs in space.

We appreciate your recent efforts to find short-term funding to halt the threatened shut down of Landsats 4 and 5. In February, Geosat expressed its' support to Mr. Guttman for action in bringing the user agencies together to find a short-term funding solution. We are pleased that your efforts have been successful.

Since its organization in 1976, the Geosat Committee has supported the development of the Landsat Program. We believe the program has suffered from the largely unilateral government decisions to push for commercialization without appropriate time allowed for adequate financial investment and market development. Other countries are moving into the earth observation field through joint government-industry decision—making, investment and technology development for common goals.

The Geosat Committee understands that the short-term funding for Landsats 4 and 5 will allow time for the National Space Council to review short- and long-term policy options for the Landsat Program. We encourage the Council to provide an opportunity for meaningful input from the private business sector and user community. We have strongly urged NOAA and Congress to provide for private sector participation in the evaluation of NOAA's impending action plan for a U.S. "advanced civil earth remote sensing satellite system" and seek your help in accomplishing such participation.

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February 1989